

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
L-03 /081 W

-----140051Z 117148 /63

P 140023Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3469

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 03891

E.O. 11652: DGS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, CA

SUBJECT: ILO 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

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REF: A. STATE 102699; B. 103405; C. 103404;
D. OTTAWA 3639

1. AS PER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A, AMBASSADOR
ACCOMPANIED BY LABATT CALLED ON DEP UNDER SECRETARY
BISSONNETTE, IN ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

JAMIESON; LABOR MINISTER JOHN MUNRO (MAINWARING ALSO PRESENT); AND CLC PRESIDENT (ALSO CHAIRMAN ILO WORKER GROUP) JOE MORRIS. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED BACKGROUND ON U.S. LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW AND POINTED OUT REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. POSITION CONTAINED IN RECENT JOINT STATEMENT BY SECRETARIES OF STATE, LABOR AND COMMERCE.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS OF FIRST FOUR CRITICAL ISSUES (REFTEL A) CONFRONTING US DURING FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR (MAINWARING IS PRIMARY GOC OFFICIAL ON ILO MATTERS) AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH U.S. OBJECTIVES AND GOC WILL LEND ACTIVE SUPPORT. AS NOTED REFTEL D, GOC SHARES OUR OBJECTIVES IN SEEKING AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17 BUT PROPOSES ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE IN HOPES OF OBTAINING ACCEPTANCE BY THE CONFERENCE. ON STRUCTURE QUESTION, GOC HOPES THAT FEBRUARY-MARCH GB DECISION TO DEFER FURTHER CONSIDERATION WILL STAND AND IF COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE SHOULD MEET DURING CONFERENCE IT WOULD BE BRIEF, LOW-KEY SESSION WITH AGREEMENT TO MEET IN NOVEMBER.

3. MUNRO AND BISSONNETTEE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR SUPPORT OF JOE MORRIS AS CANDIDATE FOR GB CHAIRMANSHIP.

4. WHILE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIALS PREDICATED AVAILABILITY OF REPRESENTATIVES ON IMPORTANT COMMITTEES ON SIZE OF ITS DELEGATION, MAINWARING ASSURED US THAT CANADIAN DELEGATION WILL BE LARGE ENOUGH TO HAVE REPRESENTATION ON ALL KEY COMMITTEES. GOC WELCOMES WORKING
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CLOSELY WITH U.S. AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES AND AS NOTED IN REF D CANADIANS HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING IMEC CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE BEGINNING.

5. MORRIS WAS EQUALLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES. HE IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS NOT TO HAVE GB AUTHORITY ERODED BY STRUCTURE CHANGES. MORRIS REITERATED THAT BETTER ILO PERFORMANCE LARGELY DEPENDENT ON U.S. PRESENCE; HENCE, WE SHOULD REMAIN IN ORGANIZATION. HE ADDED (AS OTHER CANADIANS HAVE) THAT U.S. EFFORTS DURING PAST 18 MONTHS HAVE ACHIEVED WESTERN COHESION AND SUCCESSES IN GB THAT WERE NOT THOUGHT POSSIBLE A YEAR AND A HALF AGO.

6. LABATT TELEPHONICALLY DISCUSSED CRITICAL ISSUES WITH TORONTO-BASED EMPLOYER DELEGATE WILLIAM WIGHTMAN. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT AND SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF EQUAL TREATMENT

OF APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS HE WILL TRY TO ASSIGN
SOMEONE TO THAT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. CANADIAN EM-
PLOYERS WILL SUPPORT MORRIS FOR GB CHAIRMANSHIP BUT
WOULD THEMSELVES DECLINE SUCH CANDIDACY BECAUSE OF
PREFERENCE TO MAINTAIN SUCH CHAIRMANSHIPS LIMITED TO
GOVERNMENTS.

7. CANADIAN DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE:

JOHN MAINWARING, GOVERNMENT DELEGATE AND CHAIRMAN;
ROBERT MITCHELL, GOVERNMENT DELEGATE (DEPUTY MINISTER OF
LABOR, SASKATCHEWAN);

WILLIAM WIGHTMAN, EMPLOYER DELEGATE (DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 03891

RELATIONS, CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION);

JOE MORRIS, WORKER DELEGATE (PRESIDENT, CANADIAN LABOUR
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CONGRESS).

DURING LABOR MINISTER MUNRO'S CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE,
JUNE 10-14, HE WILL, OF COURSE, HEAD GOVERNMENT
DELEGATION. ENDERS

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